

Text of Proposal to QFI:

In addition to Arabic Language and Culture we will continue to offer a semester-long history elective on the city of Jerusalem. This course provides much needed historical background about the city and its role in the classical world. The course dovetails nicely with our Arabic program and our mission as a classical school, and it continues to attract students who study Arabic as well as those who do not. By studying Jerusalem as a symbol of intercultural and inter-religious overlap, interaction, understanding, and sometimes, conflict, we believe students leave this course with an excellent foundation upon which to understand a major area of global politics. A major goal of this class is to encourage students to continue their studies of the Middle East. We would offer this elective in both the first and second semesters of the school year.

Text of Invitation to Tamara:

Dear Ms Menkart-

My name is Alexander Porcelli. I teach a course called "a history of Jerusalem" at Washington Latin PCS in DC. I am interested in the possibility of having Tamara Erde visit my class in April. Our course is focussed on tracing the historical roots of modern Jerusalem and the surrounding territories. We explore Jerusalem as a city of many stories and use the text "Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City" by Guy Delisle to explore the different layers of the city. Especially because her film focuses on different stories, and our small class (7 students) will allow for nuanced and intimate conversation, I think our class is a perfect fit for ms Erde.

Description of class for school:

Jerusalem has been a center for religious and secular life since the time of King David (~1050 BC). It has also been a satellite of major empires since before the time of Jesus. This is a place where religious and secular cultures from East and West have intersected for thousands of years. In his book on the history of the city, Simon Goldhill says, "Above all, this whole area is a place where...stories are irrevocably mixed together—in time and in space... It is increasingly filled with people who insist on the impossible demand that this complex interweaving should be simple, clear, and separate."

This course will seek to trace the different stories of this city. We will examine Jerusalem and its role in the classical and modern world and explore how different communities have lived, and continue to live, in unity and in division.